

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Due to the length of the specification herein, Applicants will cite to the paragraph number of the published patent application (PG Pub) of the present application, i.e., US 2006/0110617, when discussing the application description, both in this section and in the Remarks section, *infra*, rather than to page and line of the specification as filed.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite that the acrylic film material (A) is --monolayered--, as supported, for example, by Examples 1-14 and 41-61. See, for example, the description in the specification at paragraphs [0698]-[0699] of mixing a multilayer structure polymer and additives to form a mixture (resin composition (III-1)), the mixture is extruded to form a pellet, and then the pellet is formed into acrylic film material (A).

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 20-22 remain active in the application; Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16-19 and 23-33 stand withdrawn from consideration.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by US 4,508,875 (Kishida et al), is respectfully traversed.

As recited in Claim 1, an embodiment of the present invention is a multilayer structure polymer (I) comprising (1) an innermost layer polymer (I-A), (2) **an intermediate layer polymer (I-B) with a glass-transition temperature of 25 to 100 °C** comprising a composition different from that of the innermost layer polymer (I-A), and (3) an outermost layer polymer (I-C), wherein the innermost layer polymer comprises (I-A1) an alkyl acrylate in 50 to 99.9 wt%, (I-A2) an alkyl methacrylate in 0 to 49.9 wt%, (I-A3) another monomer comprising a copolymerizable double bond in 0 to 20 wt%, (I-A4) a multifunctional monomer in 0 to 10 wt%, and (I-A5) a graft crosslinker in 0.1 to 10 wt%; wherein the intermediate layer polymer (I-B) comprises (I-B1) an alkyl acrylate in 9.9 to 90 wt%, (I-B2) an alkyl methacrylate in 9.9 to 90 wt%, (I-B3) another monomer comprising a copolymerizable double bond in 0 to 20 wt%, (I-B4) a multifunctional monomer in 0 to 10 wt%, and (I-B5) a graft crosslinker 0.1 to 10 wt%; and wherein the outermost layer polymer (I-C) comprises (I-C1) an alkyl methacrylate in 80 to 100 wt%, (I-C2) an alkyl acrylate in 0 to 20 wt%, and (I-C3) another monomer comprising a copolymerizable double bond in 0 to 20 wt%.

(Emphasis added.)

Another embodiment of the invention, as recited in above-amended Claim 20, is a **monolayered** acrylic resin film material (A) exhibiting a difference of 30 % or less between haze values as determined in accordance with the testing method of JIS K7136 (haze measurement method) after and before a tensile test where a test piece with a width of 20 mm is pulled under the conditions of an initial inter-chuck distance of 25 mm, a rate of 50mm/min

and a temperature of 23 °C until an end-point inter-chuck distance becomes 33 mm as well as having a pencil hardness of 2B or higher as determined in accordance with JIS K5400.

(Emphasis added.)

Thus, the intermediate layer polymer (I-B) of Claim 1 has a Tg of 25 to 100°C. It is notoriously well-known that Tg value is calculated by FOX's equation, as described in the specification at paragraphs [0149] and [0498]. Present Claim 20 specifies a monlayer acrylic resin film material (A), which can be made from the multilayer structure polymer (I).

Kishida et al discloses a multilayer structure polymer comprising an intermediate layer (D) between a polymer (B) layer and a polymer (C) layer (column 3, lines 56-57). The Examiner analogizes presently-recited intermediate layer polymer (I-B) with intermediate layer (D) of Kishida et al, relying on at least Example 1 therein. However, in describing their intermediate layer (D) (column 8, line 52 to column 9, line 8), Kishida et al does not disclose any Tg or Tg range. In their Examples, Kishida et al discloses several intermediate layers (D), which are formed from: (1) MMA/BuA/AMA=5/5/0.1; (2) MMA/2EHA/AMA=5/5/0.1; (3) MMA/St/BuA/AMA=4/1/5/0.1; (4) MMA/BuA/AMA=2/3/0.05; and (5) MMA/BuA/AMA=3/2/0.05 (Tables 1, 2 and 6). However, the Tgs of these intermediate layers (D) are calculated by FOX's equation to be: (1) 4.3°C; (2) 7.5°C; (3) 4.1°C; (4) -9.7°C; and (5) 19.9°C, all of which are below 25°C.

Therefore, the multilayer structure polymer disclosed by Kishida et al is not the same as the multilayer structure polymer (I) specified in present Claim 1. Accordingly, the film disclosed by Kishida et al does not have properties recited in present Claim 20.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by US 2002/0136853 (Koyama et al), is respectfully traversed.

Claim 20 has been reproduced above, with emphasis on the fact that the claimed acrylic resin film material (A) is **monolayered**.

Koyama et al disclose an acrylic resin laminate film comprising a soft layer comprising rubber particles and having a flexural modulus of about 1,300 MPa or less, and a hard layer having a flexural modulus of about 1,800 MPa or more, on at least one side of the soft layer (Abstract). Thus, Koyama et al neither discloses nor suggests a **monolayered** acrylic resin film material (A). The above is sufficient to distinguish Koyama et al. Nevertheless, even if the above soft layer *per se* were treated separately as a monolayered film, and even if the above hard layer *per se* were treated separately as a monolayered film, neither film meets the limitations of Claim 20.

Regarding Koyama et al's soft layer, no pencil hardness is disclosed [0014]-[0021]. In their Examples, Koyama et al discloses several soft layers which have a flexural modulus of about 1,150 to 1,550 MPa and which may exhibit a good whitening degree (Tables 1-1 and 1-2). However, the soft layer having such a low flexural modulus must have a pencil hardness of 3B or lower because a hard layer having a flexural modulus of 1,650 MPa has a pencil hardness of 3B, as disclosed for Comparative Example 2.

Regarding Koyama et al's hard layer, Koyama et al discloses in their Examples several hard layers which have a flexural modulus of 2,960 to 3,200 MPa and a pencil hardness of H or more (Tables 1-1 and 1-2). However, since a hard layer having such a high flexural modulus must be difficult to be elongated due to its high flexural modulus, the tensile test of the hard layer only under the conditions of an initial inter-chuck distance of 25 mm and an end-point inter-chuck distance of 33 mm, as recited in Claim 20, cannot be carried out.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

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Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-active claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

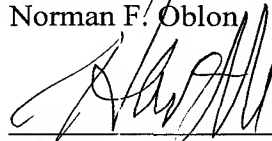
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